WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Imposition of a ban on retrenchment of workers

*344. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to impose a ban on the retrenchment of employees and workers in the private and the public sectors in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are no provisions in the Industrial Disputs Act, 1947, under which any such general ban can be imposed. The protection enjoyed by workemen in respect of retrenchment have been set out in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Prices of Vanaspati and Edible oils

*346. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesalers and retailers of vanaspati and edible oils do not pass on to the consumers the discounts offered by the manufacturers and that there is a marked variation in the prices of vanaspati sold at the different outlets, i.e. Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandars, etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the benefits of the discounts offered by the manufacturers of vanaspati and edible oils are passed on to the consumers and also to check the price variations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) At times, for the purpose of promoting business, the manufacturers of vanaspati and edible oils offer schemes and discounts to consumers on their products, over and above the commission to the wholesalers and retailers. Incentives meant for consumers are generally marked on containers so that he may claim the same while buying. The prices of vanaspati, may vary due to factors such as sale and distribution cost etc., but shall not exceed the maximum retail price printed on the containers.

(b) As per Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, the maximum retail price (excluding local taxes) is required to be marked on consumer packs. In case of vanaspati, the price marked on the packs is the maximum retail price agreed between the Government and the industry from time to time. Besides, periodic dialogue is held with the trade and industry to see that interest of consumers is protected.

Performance of the National Film Development Corporation

*347. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of the National Film Development Corporation has been poor in the export of films;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to inquire into the working of this organisation and to suggest improvement in its drawbacks and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Exports of feature films above the value of Rs. 20 lakhs are canalised through the National Film Development Corporation. Canalised exports, after registering a decline, have started looking up in 1987-88. These exports have been of the value of Rs. 640.60 lakhs during 1987-88 (upto February, 1988) as against Rs. 572.18 lakhs during 1986-87. Likewise, the corresponding figures or direct exports of NFDC are Rs. 142.18 lakhs and Rs. 119.07 lakhs respectively. The reasons for decline in exports in earlier years have been video-piracy and shift in consumer preference.

The working of NFDC was examined by the One-Man Committee of Dr. Asok Mitra in 1986. Its recommendations, most of which were accepted by the Government, have been/are being implemented. Therefore, setting up of another Committee is not contemplated.

Closure of Government of India Printing Presses

*348. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close down a number of Government of India Printing Presses in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) With a view to streamlining the working of the Government of India Presses and to make them economically viable and also as a part of the process of shedding non-essential activities, a decision was taken by the Government to close down four Government of India Presses—three in Calcutta (including the Government of India Forms Store, Calcutta) and one in Shimla. This decision is however, under active review.

Central Schemes for Small and Marginal Farmers

*349. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the schemes taken up by the Central Government for the benefit of small and marginal farmers, since the commencement of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government have made any analysis of the benefits which accrued to these farmers as a result of these schemes and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the shortcomings, if any, in the said schemes and the steps being taken to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The details of the Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes to benefit the small and marginal farmers being implemented during the 7th Five Year Plan alongwith the benefits are given below:—

Name of the Scheme	Benefits accrued
1	2
(1) Assistance to small and marginal farmers for increasing agricultural production.	(i) 3.68 lakh wells/tubewells constructed.